

From Carl Berg <cberg@pixi.com>

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To hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov

Cc [REDACTED]

Subject testimony

Aloha,

In light of the tremendous public response to the Sanctuary's plans, I would like to reiterate my dismay at the handling of the public outreach program, especially having break-out sessions versus open discussions like they had at the Ocean Users meeting. Dismay that NOAA did not attend the Ocean User's meeting and I also object to not responding to the public's request for additional time to comment. I feel that the whole scoping process has been mis-handled from the start and that additional staff changes are in order at this time. More importantly, I think that the Ocean Users Group, with their petition, shows that important sections of the community do not feel a need for the HIHWNMS at all. Below is the original testimony that I handed in at the May 8th meeting.

Carl

HIHWNMS Public informational meeting

May 8th, 2010

The HIHWNMS is the first and only NMS species-oriented versus locality-oriented. Only one species is considered, the Humpback Whale and little or no additional protection is afforded the species by Sanctuary designation. The rest of the greater Hawaiian marine ecosystem is disregarded.

This single-species Sanctuary was an experiment tested for over ten years, yet the whales are being destroyed by noise, pollution, entanglements, and ship strikes now more than ever. The HIHWNMS is a disaster that has taken millions of tax payers' dollars from whale protection and spent it on NOAA programmatic expansion and promotion. The HIHWNMS is little more than a kiddie education program and public relations program.

The problems with the HIHWNMS are too severe and too programmatic to be fixed by minor changes in staff or program emphasis.

I recommend the complete dissolution of the HIHWNMS and the assumption of its successful

programs within a new Hawaiian Islands NMS that encompasses both the North West Hawaiian Islands and the Main Hawaiian Islands. Vital and effective functions, such as whale dis-entanglement, can be moved to the National Marine Fisheries Service, which serves that function well in mainland NOAA marine Sanctuaries.. The State of Hawaii has a duplicative HIHWNMS staff to protect the States interests. It too can be eliminated..

The consolidation of NOAA sanctuary functions into a single administration will provide great cost savings for the NOAA budget and force NOAA to decide what natural resource protection it can provide to the coral reefs, monk seals, turtles and whales of Hawaiian waters.

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Sanctuary Advisory Council, retired

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